

Richwood

Richwood, Jan. 22 (Other Richwood news on Page 7) Rev. and Mrs. Cecil Carter were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh and Mrs. Jack Hamilton Sunday.

Little Peggy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Woodridge, is sick at this writing. Our wish is for a speedy recovery.

Mr. John and Theodore Moore were in Lynchburg Monday.

Floyd Trent is visiting his granddaughter, who is ill in Danville.

H. H. Harvey was in Lynchburg

Tuesday on business.

John Hunter, G. P. Brannan and D. A. Pugh were in Lynchburg on business Saturday.

Mrs. James Fleishman is awaiting an operation in a Lynchburg hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Randall Woodridge were guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh Sunday.

Sam Cordell and sons, Russell and Charles were in Lynchburg on business Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sarver Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Burks and son, Jack Wayne.

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Man Begg Court To Pronounce Life Sentence

After Spending 28 Years in Prisons He Decides He Can't Beat Game.

PHILADELPHIA.—Weary at last of the game he never has seemed able to beat, a pale, 45-year-old prisoner, handed a note to Judge Joseph Tumolillo in Municipal court that bore one of the strangest pleas ever made in that court.

William Osburn Stratton, alias James R. Hoffman, who has spent 28 years of his life in New Jersey prisons and had just been found guilty of passing a worthless \$75 check, looked up in hopeful silence as the jurist slowly read his petition to be allowed to "forget the outside world fore-"

Judge Reads Plea.

The note read:

"Because I have no friends or anyone who cares if I live or not—and an ex-convict today has no chance to make good without the help of someone on the outside—I have always had a good record in prison. I am now 45 years old and I try to get a job. I am unable to find one. I have a few years more to go anyway, having been shut up so long behind bars that what little sunshine I get is the few days' liberty I get before I start drinking and cashing checks."

Judge Tumolillo looked down compassionately at the slight man for a moment and resumed reading.

"I have tried and I mean tried—to get honest work in New Jersey, but couldn't. That is why I came to Philadelphia, where I got a job under my own name the same day. But was forced to leave the job because of my checks cashed in New York, having met a man from New York who said, 'Bill, you better leave Philadelphia, as New York knows you are here some place.'"

Sanity Test Ordered.

"So I think it's best to take a life sentence and forget the outside world forever. The only friend I ever had I met her in Philadelphia, but I wasn't even on the level with her, because I didn't know she was a real true friend, thinking she was like everyone else, out to trick me. So I even hurt her by not telling her my past life. I don't want to be free any more, so do the best you can, as I won't be sore, and I'll be good wherever you send me."

Sincere as the man's plea seemed, Judge Tumolillo withheld decision until Stratton could be given a mental examination, since his note mentioned he had twice been in insane asylums. He was first arrested in 1911 as an incorrigible and sent to a New Jersey reformatory, and since then has been sentenced in New Jersey 21 times on charges ranging from burglary to impersonating a government officer.

Thief Coughs Up the \$50

Cab Passenger Missed

CHICAGO—Joseph Burgess, 21, of Carleton, Mich., was searched inside and out for the evidence that convicted him of charges of larceny from the person.

Charles Avery, 22, also of Carleton, took a cab from Flat Rock to Detroit with his friend Burgess. On the way, he dropped his billfold on the floor of the cab. When he returned, a \$50 bill was missing.

Avery immediately accused his friend Burgess of taking it, and ordered the driver to take them to police headquarters.

Police searched Burgess with no result.

"Look in his mouth," Avery advised. Police ordered Burgess to "open wide" and Burgess did so. Not, however, before gulping strongly.

Another search, at Receiving hospital with the aid of a stomach pump and hot water and mustard, brought the \$50 bill to light.

Recorder's Judge George Murphy gave Burgess the choice of a \$25 fine or 10 days. He paid the fine.

Uses Mate's Tombstone

In Committing Suicide

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO—Mrs. Ruth Allen Barber, 60, disconsolate since the death of her husband, Homer, four years ago, committed suicide by topping a tombstone down on her head at her husband's grave, Coroner Dr. David Belinky said.

Dr. Belinky said an examination indicated that Mrs. Barber tried twice before she crushed her skull caused death.

Boy Kills Sister With Gun That Wasn't Loaded

CHICOPPEE, MASS.—Eight-year-old June McLean was shot and killed by her brother, Albert, 11, during a game of hide-and-seek.

Police said the boys were playing near a farm in Chicopee Falls when Albert found a pistol in a truck. The police said he shot his sister in the back when he aimed at her, not knowing the weapon was loaded.



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